

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: NAGAO

APPROVED BY /S-O: ELTZ

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O 181012Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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CIA IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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JCS/DIA IMMEDIATE

TREASURY IMMEDIATE

JCS/DOD IMMEDIATE

USCG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246142

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPAN CONSIDERS LIBYAN OIL PURCHASE

PRESS REPORTS, JAPANESE EMBASSY INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF LIBYAN "HOT OIL," AND RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT JAPAN IS CONSIDERING ADVISING JAPANESE FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECEMBER 19 AUCTION OF LIBYAN CRUDE. THE JAPANESE CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS THAT SOME OF THE OIL MAY BE "HOT" AND THAT ITS PURCHASE MAY INVITE "REPERCUSSIONS." EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT MITSUBISHI, FOR ONE, HAS DECIDED AGAINST PLACING A BID DUE TO PRICE CONSIDERATIONS. ACCORDING TO A COMPANY OFFICIAL, NO JAPANESE FIRM WAS SUCCESSFUL IN A RECENT AUCTION OF IRANIAN CRUDE AND THE PRICE OF LIBYAN OIL IS EXPECTED TO BE EVEN HIGHER. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 16247 AND STATE 246095, 12/17.

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2. THE VATICAN AND THE JERUSALEM ISSUE

A VATICAN OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY ROME THAT TUNISIAN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S DECEMBER 14 MEETING WITH POPE PAUL CONSISTED OF A "VERY GENERALIZED" TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, WITH BOURGUIBA MAKING NO SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE VATICAN ROLE WITH RESPECT TO JERUSALEM. EMBASSY ROME COMMENTS THAT ARAB DIPLOMATS TO THE HOLY SEE FREQUENTLY EXPRESS PUZZLEMENT OVER THE VATICAN'S APPARENT PASSIVITY ON JERUSALEM, BUT THAT NONE HAS TRIED TO STIMULATE VATICAN ACTIVISM. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE ARABS WOULD NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE THE VATICAN TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS OR ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE IT IN THE GENEVA TALKS UNLESS IT SHOULD BECOME APPARENT THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION FOR JERUSALEM IS SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONALIZATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 13999, 12/17.

3. VINOGRADOV TO GENEVA

CAIRO'S AL AHAM REPORTED DECEMBER 16 THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT WILL BE TO HEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE UN EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT HE WILL ATTEND THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AS GROMYKO'S DEPUTY. VINOGRADOV HAS CONFIRMED TO USINT CAIRO THAT HE WILL ATTEND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE AS SPECIAL SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE, BUT DENIED THAT HE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO GENEVA FOLLOWING THE TALKS. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 4062, 12/17.

4. KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER REFLECTS ON MIDDLE EAST

IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS, KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH URGED THE US TO INCREASE PUBLIC SUPPORT OF EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO IS IN A HIGHLY VULNERABLE POSITION DUE TO HIS SUPPORT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. KUWAIT WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ARAB NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT SABAH SAID HIS COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNDEFINED "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 4376, 12/17.

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5. MASS RALLIES REAPPEAR IN CHINA

A CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO PLAY UP CHINESE SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA CLIMAXED OVER THE WEEKEND WITH SEVERAL MASS RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS. CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG REPORTS THAT THESE RALLIES MARK THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF MASS POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITH

FOREIGN AFFAIRS IMPLICATIONS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA SINCE THE REBUILDING OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS
EARLIER THIS YEAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 12656,
12/17. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, PETROLEUM, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PEACE TALKS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE246142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: NAGAO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731218/aaaaanas.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, JA, LY, TS, SF, KU, UR, CH, THE VATICAN, (BOURGUIBA), (VINOGRADOV)
To: JCS/SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005